



The Science Undergraduate Society of UBC c/o Science Student Information Centre, Room A150 - 6221 University Boulevard, Chem/Phys Bldg., UBC, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1. Telephone: 604-822-4235 - info@sus.ubc.ca - www.sus.ubc.ca

Date and Time of Meeting: 15 October  
2015  
Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum, The AMS Student  
Nest

**Call to Order:** 12:46 PM

**Amendments to the Agenda:**

Moved by Lily Takeuchi, Seconded by Daniel Lam

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council amend the agenda to add a presentation by Melissa Lachica on International Student Tuition

**...MOTION PASSES**

Moved by Jeff Pea, Seconded by Cody Wisniewski

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council amend the agenda to omnibus the motion for the committees and representatives at the end

**...MOTION PASSES**

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

Moved by Diane Nguyen, Seconded by Alvin Hartono

That Council adopt the agenda.

**...MOTION PASSES**

**Introductions**

All newly elected Council Members introduced themselves

**Presentations**

“International Tuition” by Melissa Lachica

AMS has announced an increase in tuition fees for International Students by 15% by the 2016/2017 year. All members of Council are encouraged to visit [ams.ubc.ca/tuition](http://ams.ubc.ca/tuition) to learn more about the fee increase.

It is encouraged to be aware of the opportunities to have voice heard and reach out to peers:

- a. Think Tanks: smaller groups to discuss possible solutions
  - i. Limited to about 20 people
- b. Town Halls
- c. Surveys provided by UBC and AMS

**Question Period:**

Lily Takeuchi:

AMS and UBC consultation differences



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Melissa Lachica:

Different organization running the consultation; AMS has more direct and open ended questions, while UBC's survey doesn't generate those responses. UBC survey deadline is on November 12th, November 16th for AMS. Recommends the AMS survey

Lily Takeuchi:

How is SUS planning to support feedback?

Melissa Lachica:

Discussion about this after committee reports

## **Executive and AMS Report**

### **1. President**

- a. Working on the Tuition Consultation
  - i. Will be present at all the meetings
- b. Excited on council retreat

### **2. VP External**

- a. Working on Science fair with his AVP

### **3. VP Internal**

- a. Committee organization
  - i. Meet with AMS for food bank October 16th

### **4. VP Academic**

- a. Tuition with VP Academics
- b. Puppy Visit Clinic

### **5. VP Administration**

- a. Finishing meeting with clubs
- b. Council Office hours
- c. Timeline for Code and Policy

### **6. VP Communications**

- a. Labrat is no longer a Facebook profile
  - i. Someone reported the account
  - ii. Will be a Facebook page instead
  - iii. Better to track how many likes and posts: encourage friends to like
- b. Distillation will only accept from individual clubs
  - i. Can post on the Facebook group instead
- c. Making a marketing page on the website
  - i. Wordpress

### **7. VP Finance**



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- a. Interviewing AVP
- b. Re-looking at grants to reimburse

#### **8. VP Student Life**

- a. Science week
- b. Social
  - i. Oktoberfest in the Agora of the Nest
- c. Great Trek
  - i. Team with SUS
  - ii. \$5 Deposit by next week, or speak with Cody

#### **9. Science Student Senator**

#### **10. AMS Reports**

- a. AMS council on October 7th
  - i. Presentation: a new app to encourage commuters to a carpoolin system
- b. New VP finance program: Umbrellas for all
  - i. An Umbrella sharing program on campus
- c. AMS is withdrawn from a coalition, because many members have separated already
- d. October 21st; AMS AGM in the Michael Kingsmill forum

#### **Approval of Minutes of Council/Committees**

Moved by Tyler Yan, Seconded by Sarah Park

That SUS Council approves the following Committee meeting minutes.

XM 2015 10 01  
XM 2015 07 22  
XM 2015 07 15  
XM 2015 07 08  
XM 2015 06 19  
XM 2015 06 05  
XM 2015 05 29  
XM 2015 05 22  
XM 2015 05 15  
XM 2015 05 08

#### **Executive Committee Motions**

Moved by, Cody Wisniewski, Seconded by, Oliver Jung

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Hikari be appointed as the Astronomy Representative.

Motivated by: Melissa Lachica

Debate:

**...MOTION PASSES**



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Moved by Cody Wisniewski, Seconded by Oliver Jung,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Poljanka Johnson be appointed as the Biophysics Representative.

Motivated by:

Debate:

**...MOTION PASSES**

Moved by Cody Wisniewski, Seconded by Oliver Jung,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Daniel Lam be appointed as the Earth, Ocean Sciences, and Atmospheric Sciences Representative.

Motivated by:

Debate:

Abstention by Daniel Lam

**...MOTION PASSES**

Moved by, Seconded by,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as the Geography Representative.

Motivated by:

Debate:

Moved by, Seconded by,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as the Math Representative.

Motivated by:

Debate:

Moved by Cody Wisniewski, Seconded by Oliver Jung,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Akhil be appointed as the Physics Representative.

Motivated by:

Debate:

**...MOTION PASSES**

Moved by, Seconded by,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council appoint \_\_\_\_\_ of council on the teaching and learning enhancement fund

Motivated by:

Debate:

**Committee Reports and Motions**



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Moved by Melissa Lachica, Seconded by Jonathan Dong

BE IT RESOLVED THAT representatives be appointed to these Kalem Teaching Awards Committee, Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards Committee, Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards Committee, Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund

**...MOTION PASSES**

Kalem teaching awards committee:

Nominations:

Daniel Lam: Accept

Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards Committee

Nominations:

Sheila Wang: Accept

Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund

Nominations:

Nadine Chan: Accept

Science Learning and Teaching Grant Committee

Nominations:

Sarah Park: Accept

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Danie Lam, Sheila Wang, Nadine Chan, and Sarah Park be appointed to Kalem Teaching Awards Committee, Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards Committee, Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, and Science and Learning Enhancement Fund respectively.

Moved by Alvin Hartono, Seconded by Tyler Yan

Abstentions: Daniel Lam

**...MOTION PASSES**

**Discussion Period**

Chaired by Cody Wisniewski:

- 1) International Tuition-by Melissa Lachica:

Melissa Lachica:



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If they can get away with the increases, can get away with more

Jeff Pea:

They have the budgeted proposal for the architecture; 2018 and 2019 tuition price will be \$60 000, total \$24 0000.

Melissa Lachica:

How much is a domestic student pay for the degree?

Daniel Lam:

\$5 000 per year for 4 years

Melissa Lachica:

International student? Increase by 15%. Compare tuition to Berkly

Alvin Hartono:

Has the university explicitly stated the benefits

Danial Lam:

That's what consultations are for; the University will not put a lot of talk as to whether or not these increases are happening, more so how they're using the money

Jeff Pea:

Comparing with a California university: undergoing financial criticism; i.e.: a student who pays in state tuition in California pay around 2/3rd of what they have to pay normally at UBC; pay \$40-50000, so not fair to compare our system to a flawed one

Melissa Lachica:

Peer institutions: often receive a chart that scales Universities, UBC is 32 on the chart. A line graph that compares BSc tuition fees for international students; need to discuss whether they are peer institutions. Hard to compare UBC to ivy institutions. UBC is often compared to UofT and McGill; why do we need to compare? it is not a competition, but rather an opportunity for learning

Lily Takeuchi:

How do constituencies give feedback?

Melissa Lachica:

Townhall and Think tank events; as for SUS, there is no current way to deal with this situation

Cody Wisniewski:

AMS will be posting a questionnaire: [ams.ubc.ca/tuition](http://ams.ubc.ca/tuition)



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Diane Nguyen:

What is Think tank?

Melissa Lachica:

20 students who are focus groups on the 4 major issues that the university has discussed: Peer Institution, Valuing Excellence, Ranking, and International Student Experience

Jerry Yang:

BSc in Berkly; science program there is similar to Engineering, and science courses are BA at Berkley

Jeff Pea:

Peer Institutions: the structure of faculties in other universities is very different, so this adds onto what institutions are looking at. Berkly is not the best model

Melissa Lachica;

Comparison of programs; have gone through most Individual programs and have compared those

Tuition increases in UBC website will have as much information as possible

Alvin Hartono:

Rankings: sat on the budget report presentation: raising tuition because the government of Canada has decreased funding by 50%. Therefore, they are increasing international tuition. Ranking is important in order to refer them to apply to more government funding, you need to be higher on the government ranking

Jeff Pea:

Concerns with rankings: many people assess the research ability at the graduate level, which effects the graduate students and undergraduate level, therefore the necessity to increase tuition to undergraduate students. Is it applicable to undergraduate?

UBC has one of the largest international percentage (20) in North America

Melissa Lachica:

Tuition increases were proposed without reasoning

Diane Nguyen:

Isn't criteria of ranking affordability of tuition?

Melissa Lachica:

Not sure how ranking works, other than productivity of research by graduate students



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Antony Tsui:

Different types of rankings around the world, and most have a similar criteria; rankings do have an effect on how one decides on university to go to. Ranking has a strategic influence; want to prove that they have the funding for support; but should provide reasoning for why increase is so much

Diane Nguyen:

Settled that increases will be happening; when is the solid date where we know where money is going?

Melissa Lachica:

Not sure when the decision will be made; deadlines for feedback is November 12th and 16th, possibly decision made in December; we know that tuition increases are going to happen, and will be participating in tuition consultation

Alvin Hartono:

Is there is a discussion on student/financial aid, and how a lot of money can go towards that?

Melissa Lachica;

Will be a discussion about student financial aid October 16th

Jeff Pea:

Answer to Alvin's question: according to their distribution, 7% towards financial aid

Melissa Lachica:

What do we want to do as SUS?

Antony Tsui:

As a constituency, push forward a mechanism or control on how they increase tuition

Melissa Lachica:

Share Facebook link, event, classroom announcement; what options?

Alvin Hartono:

What is the process for us to 'lobby', instead of doing consultations or Think Tanks

Jeff Pea:

Consultation is the official form, and gave us a proposal, and us as students need to do the consultation in order to assess it. The only other way is to make statements as an undergraduate society and student government; AMS did that last time in regards with tuition increase; a lot of





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outlets available for students, and important for representatives to educate fellow constituencies and to have us unite as a voice

Daniel:

Last increase of 20%, AMS organized student protest; can we bring to AGM

Melissa Lachica:

Wanted organized efforts; opened up the floor for other groups on campus and other constituencies, or the Calendar, 'I Am a Student' movement, to step forward and protest, but the AMS wants to have more structured

Annie Collins:

Efficacy of student protest; comparing to Quebec; wasn't very effective when it was such a wide scale; it is the right 'spirit', questioning the efficacy

Melissa Lachica;

Talk about lobbying, and opportunities, both online and in person; and opportunity would be to follow a structured lobbying; as members of SUS council; do we want to promote on social media, even if it isn't as effected?

Lily Takeuchi:

Important for some of us to go and learn more about the proposed allocations of the money, because some things are very vague, so getting more details and being introduced to what the university is proposing is a better way to go

Melissa Lachica;

A lot of information that has been provided for us; will be meeting with other constituencies to discuss this

Norman Li:

Problem seems to be stemming from the government not putting as much money towards university tuition; could be useful to use social media to convey message to the candidates (federal); even if there is no dramatic effect, gives something that they could think about; would want attention from students (one of the highest voter turnouts)

Melissa Lachica:

There are some members of the AMS who are planning an online 'vote mob' regarding the elections; will take this to the other presidents

Lily Takeuchi:

Is the AMS putting together a list of questions for the consultations?



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Melissa Lachica:

AMS has been a part of what the conversations will be about; there will be a lot of structure; contact Melissa if you have more questions

Lily Takeuchi:

Can we participate as a council?

Melissa Lachica:

Yes

**Adjournment 1:57 PM**

Moved by Sarah Park, Seconded by Sheila Wang  
The Council adjourn at 1:57 PM

*Pooja Bhatti*

Pooja Bhatti  
AVP Administration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lily Takeuchi'.

Lily Takeuchi  
VP Administration